



TRICARE  
MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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MAR 10 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER, ARMED  
FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY

SUBJECT: Designer Drug Testing Policy Change

1. Based on the discussion during the 11 February 2009 Biochemical Testing Advisory Board meeting it appears that there was no technical objection from the group to suspend confirmation testing for methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) at the six DoD Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratories (FTDTL).
2. The data over the past few years of testing show that methylenedioxymethamphetamine and methylenedioxyamphetamine are the predominate "designer drugs" confirmed by the FTDTLs while MDEA is rarely reported.
3. The evidence suggests that it would be prudent for the program to eliminate MDEA from the DoD standard testing panel. This action will eliminate the need to maintain MDEA certification, saving labor and reagent costs.
4. As soon as practical direct your staff to eliminate MDEA from the quality assurance process and instruct the Service program managers to eliminate MDEA from the screening process at their respective laboratories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Shippee", is positioned above the typed name.

Ronald Shippee, USA  
COL MSC

Program Director, Drug Testing and  
Program Policy